

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 BNDE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09 IO-12 JUSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1440

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2080

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: BORDER PATROL EQUIPMENT REQUEST- ARGENTINA

REF: A) STATE 032818; B) BA A-582 (NOV 15, 1972)

1. THE BORDER PATROL HAS INDICATED THAT IT WISHES TO USE THE EQUIPMENT REQUESTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING HIGHLY MOBIL, FAST REACTION, NARCOTICS "STRIKE FORCES". IT CONTEMPLATES SETTING UP SIX TEAMS OF 20 MEN AND FIVE JEEPS EACH, EACH JEEP TO BE RADIO-EQUIPPED, WHICH WOULD BE GUIDED TO APPROPRIATE "TARGETS" BY THE SPOTTER AIRCRAFT (U-206 CESSNAS). THE BORDER PATROL HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED A SPECIFIC NARCOTICS UNIT TO ADMINISTER AND CONTROL THESE TEAMS. EACH FOUR MAN JEEP TEAM WOULD ALSO HAVE AN FM "BACKPACK" RADIO FOR OFF- JEEP FIELD USE. THE UNIT'S MISSION WOULD PRIMARILY BE INTERDICTIONAL ALTHOUGH INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION WOULD BE A MAJOR OBJECTIVE AS WELL. MANY IF NOT MOST OF THE NARCO- IDENT KITS REQUESTED PREVIOUSLY BY THE EMBASSY (SEE BA-1896) WOULD BE EMPLOYED BY THIS UNIT. NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE GROUP ALREADY FORMED.

2. THE STRIKE FORCE TEAMS WOULD BE USED TO INTERDICT SMUGGLERS NOT ONLY AT BORDER CROSSING POINTS BUT IN THE INTERIOR AS WELL. PREVIOUS ARRESTS MADE BY THE BORDER PATROL (SEE BA A-127) OCCURED AT SEVERAL INTERIOR POINTS, NOT JUST AT THE BORDER. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT A NARCOTICS UNIT TO BE 100 PERCENT EFFECTIVE IN STOPPING TRAFFIC ACROSS SUCH AN EXTENSIVE LIMITED O
OF AER TREATY OVER ABD, INTENDED MEANING OF "ENTERPRISES OF ALL TYPES" (ARTICLE IV.1 OF AER TREATY), AND STATUS OF AMERICAN COMPANIES WHICH CHOSE NOT TO REGISTER IN REQUIRED TIME PERIOD. COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION DEPT.

REP SUGGESTED EMBASSY MEET WITH DG OF MFA' S LEGAL AND
TREATY DEPT., WHICH WE INTEND TO DO. (MAIN POINT OF
CONTACT IN PAST HAS BEEN DG OF ECONOMIC DEPT.)

3. MINISTRY OFFICIALS GAVE ASSURANCES THAT, FROM
PRACTICAL STANDPOINT, COMPANIES WHICH HAVE REGISTERED
SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM AS FAR AS AER TREATY RIGHTS ARE
CONCERNED, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE TECHNICALLY SUBJECT TO
ALL PROVISIONS OF ABD, BUT STATUS OF COMPANIES NOT
REGISTERED AND NEW COMPANIES STILL SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR.

4. AMCHAM BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD MONTHLY MEETING,
CHAired BYDCM, MARCH 27, AND WERE GIVEN FULL REVIEW OF
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING ESPECIALLY MY CALLS ON
PRIMIN (REF A) AND MINISTER COMMERCE. ALTHOUGH THERE
IS STILL UNCERTAINTY ON PART OF SOME, IN GENERAL THEY
SEEM WELL PLEASED WITH INTEREST BEING SHOWN BY EMBASSY
AND INTEND PURSUE INVITATION OF DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER (REF A) TO MEET WITH MFA OFFICIALS TO CLEAR UP
QUESTIONS. THEY WERE ASSURED THAT EMBASSY' S EFFORTS
CONTINUING AND THAT BUSINESS COMMUNITY WILL BE KEPT
FULLY INFORMED.
UNGER

CONFIDENTIAL

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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